

IN THE CLAIMS:

All of the pending claims, 1-4, 11-13, 16, 19 and 22-26 are set forth below. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (currently amended), (original), (cancelled) or (new). Please CANCEL claims 1 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please AMEND claims 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 16 and 19, and ADD new claims 22-26 in accordance with the following:

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) ~~The~~An information processing equipment ~~according to claim 1, that carries out a communication path establishment processing at the time when a power source is turned on, the information processing equipment comprising:~~

a connector that is connected with a communication line based on the needs;

a transmission/reception mechanism that transmits/receives data through said communication line connected to said connector;

a connection status deciding unit that decides whether said communication line has been connected to said connector or not; and

a control unit that controls said transmission/reception mechanism to carry out an initialization processing for establishing a communication path connected to said communication line,

wherein said control unit controls not to carry out the initialization processing when it has been confirmed that said communication line has not been connected to said connector as a result of the decision made by said connection status deciding unit, and

wherein said transmission/reception mechanism has a plurality of operation modes having different levels of power consumption, and when the initialization processing is not carried out based on the confirmation that said communication line has not been connected to said connector as a result of the decision made by said connection status deciding unit, said control unit shifts said transmission/reception mechanism to an operation mode in which power consumption is lower.

3. (currently amended) ~~The~~An information processing equipment ~~according to claim 1, that carries out a communication path establishment processing at the time when a power source is turned on, the information processing equipment comprising:~~

a connector that is connected with a communication line based on the needs;

a transmission/reception mechanism that transmits/receives data through said

communication line connected to said connector;

a connection status deciding unit that decides whether said communication line has been connected to said connector or not; and

a control unit that controls said transmission/reception mechanism to carry out an initialization processing for establishing a communication path connected to said communication line,

wherein said control unit controls not to carry out the initialization processing when it has been confirmed that said communication line has not been connected to said connector as a result of the decision made by said connection status deciding unit, and

wherein said connection status deciding unit controls said transmission/reception mechanism to transmit a predetermined test signal, measures an echo of this test signal, and compares a size of energy of the measured echo with a predetermined reference value, and when the energy of the measured echo is larger than the reference value, said connection status deciding unit decides that said communication line has not been decided.

4. (currently amended) ~~The~~An information processing equipment ~~according to claim 1,~~that carries out a communication path establishment processing at the time when a power source is turned on, the information processing equipment comprising:

a connector that is connected with a communication line based on the needs;

a transmission/reception mechanism that transmits/receives data through said communication line connected to said connector;

a connection status deciding unit that decides whether said communication line has been connected to said connector or not; and

a control unit that controls said transmission/reception mechanism to carry out an initialization processing for establishing a communication path connected to said communication line,

wherein said control unit controls not to carry out the initialization processing when it has been confirmed that said communication line has not been connected to said connector as a result of the decision made by said connection status deciding unit, and

wherein said connection status deciding unit comprises a detecting switch that ~~mechanically detects~~is provided on the connector and is turned ON or OFF corresponding to a physical connection or disconnection, respectively, of said communication line to said connector, and a deciding circuit that decides a connection status of said communication line based on a

~~result of the detection by~~status of ON or OFF of the detecting switch.

5-11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) ~~The A communication method according to claim 11, that~~
tries to keep a status that a communication path is normally connected by suitably carrying out
an initialization processing for establishing a communication path,

wherein whether a communication line has been connected or not is confirmed, and
when it has been confirmed that said communication line has not been connected, the
initialization processing is not carried out, and

wherein the confirmation is carried out such that a predetermined tone signal is transmitted, and an echo of this tone signal is measured, and when the size of energy of this echo is larger than a predetermined value, a decision is made that said communication line has not been connected.

13. (currently amended) ~~The A communication method according to claim 11, that~~
tries to keep a status that a communication path is normally connected by suitably carrying out
an initialization processing for establishing a communication path,

wherein whether a communication line has been connected or not is confirmed, and
when it has been confirmed that said communication line has not been connected, the
initialization processing is not carried out, and

wherein the confirmation is carried out ~~based on a result of a mechanical detection of a~~
~~connection status by monitoring a state of a switch that is provided on a connector through~~
which the connection line is connected and that is turned ON or OFF corresponding to a physical
connection or disconnection, respectively, of said communication line to said connector and
deciding a connection state of said communication line based on a status of ON or OFF of the
switch.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A computer readable medium for storing instructions, which

when executed on a computer, causes the computer to realize a communication method that tries to keep a status that a communication path is normally connected by suitably carrying out an initialization processing for establishing a communication path, wherein whether a communication line has been connected or not is confirmed, and when it has been confirmed that said communication line has not been connected, the initialization processing is not carried out, and

wherein the confirmation is carried out such that a predetermined tone signal is transmitted, and an echo of the tone signal is measured, and when the size of energy of the echo is larger than a predetermined value, a decision is made that said communication line has not been connected.

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A computer program for causing the computer to realize a communication method that tries to keep a status that a communication path is normally connected by suitably carrying out an initialization processing for establishing a communication path,

wherein whether a communication line has been connected or not is confirmed, and when it has been confirmed that said communication line has not been connected, the initialization processing is not carried out, and

wherein the confirmation is carried out such that a predetermined tone signal is transmitted, and an echo of the tone signal is measured, and when the size of energy of the echo is larger than a predetermined value, a decision is made that said communication line has not been connected.

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (new) A communication method that tries to keep a status that a communication path is normally connected by suitably carrying out an initialization processing for establishing a

communication path,

wherein whether a communication line has been connected or not is confirmed, and when it has been confirmed that said communication line has not been connected, the initialization processing is not carried out, and

wherein transmission/reception is performed in a plurality of operation modes having different levels of power consumption, and when the initialization processing is not carried out based on the confirmation that said communication line has not been connected, said transmission/reception is shifted to an operation mode in which power consumption is lower.

23. (new) A computer readable medium for storing instructions, which when executed on a computer, causes the computer to realize a communication method that tries to keep a status that a communication path is normally connected by suitably carrying out an initialization processing for establishing a communication path,

wherein whether a communication line has been connected or not is confirmed, and when it has been confirmed that said communication line has not been connected, the initialization processing is not carried out, and

wherein the confirmation is carried out by monitoring a state of a switch that is provided on a connector through which the connection line is connected and that is turned ON or OFF corresponding to a physical connection or disconnection, respectively, of said communication line to said connector and deciding a connection state of said communication line based on a status of ON or OFF of the switch.

24. (new) A computer readable medium for storing instructions, which when executed on a computer, causes the computer to realize a communication method that tries to keep a status that a communication path is normally connected by suitably carrying out an initialization processing for establishing a communication path,

wherein whether a communication line has been connected or not is confirmed, and when it has been confirmed that said communication line has not been connected, the initialization processing is not carried out, and

wherein transmission/reception is performed in a plurality of operation modes having different levels of power consumption, and when the initialization processing is not carried out based on the confirmation that said communication line has not been connected, said transmission/reception is shifted to an operation mode in which power consumption is lower.

25. (new) A computer program for causing the computer to realize a communication method that tries to keep a status that a communication path is normally connected by suitably carrying out an initialization processing for establishing a communication path,

wherein whether a communication line has been connected or not is confirmed, and when it has been confirmed that said communication line has not been connected, the initialization processing is not carried out, and

wherein the confirmation is carried out by monitoring a state of a switch that is provided on a connector through which the connection line is connected and that is turned ON or OFF corresponding to a physical connection or disconnection, respectively, of said communication line to said connector and deciding a connection state of said communication line based on a status of ON or OFF of the switch.

26. (new) A computer program for causing the computer to realize a communication method that tries to keep a status that a communication path is normally connected by suitably carrying out an initialization processing for establishing a communication path,

wherein whether a communication line has been connected or not is confirmed, and when it has been confirmed that said communication line has not been connected, the initialization processing is not carried out, and

wherein transmission/reception is performed in a plurality of operation modes having different levels of power consumption, and when the initialization processing is not carried out based on the confirmation that said communication line has not been connected, said transmission/reception is shifted to an operation mode in which power consumption is lower.